

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELIZE 00569 252240Z
ACTION OC-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CCO-00 OPR-02 SY-05 /024 W
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FM AMCONSUL BELIZE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5795
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELIZE 569

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: AEMR, AVCE, ASEC
SUBJECT: EMERGENCY & EVACUATION: BELIZE VOICE RADIO SYSTEM

DEPT FOR OPR/WLG, OC/PE, AND ARA/MGT; MEXICO FOR CEO/R;
GUATEMALA FOR RSO

REF: A) BELIZE 0443 B) MEXICO 11898 C) STATE 173938

1. SUMMARY: REF A INFORMED ADDRESSEES OF GENERAL VOICE RADIO SITUATION AND INCLUDED NON-SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR IMPROVED EQUIPMENT. OC'S REPLY, REFS B AND C, SUGGESTED WAYS OF EFFECTING MARGINAL IMPROVEMENTS IN VOICE RADIO CAPABILITY BY ADJUSTMENT OF PRESENT EQUIPMENT AND INSTALLATION OF SOME NEW EQUIPMENT. THIS TELEGRAM CONTAINS POST REQUEST AND JUSTIFICATION FOR COMPLETE REPLACEMENT OF VOICE RADIO EQUIPMENT WITH MORE POWERFUL AND MORE VERSATILE UNITS. POST HAS A BARELY ADEQUATE INTRA-CITY CAPABILITY; WHAT IS REQUIRED IS LONG RANGE VOICE RADIO EQUIPMENT TO PROVIDE INTRA-COUNTRY COMMUNICATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. REF A DESCRIBED OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS AND THAT ASPECT OF POST'S E & E PLAN DEALING WITH CONTINGENCY OF HOSTILE ACTION BY GUATEMALA AGAINST BELIZE, I. E. A THREAT FROM THE WEST WITH SAFEHAVEN EGRESS TO THE EAST AND NORTH. MENTION WAS ALSO MADE OF THE HURRICANE THREAT; THIS HAS BECOME MORE TIMELY, SINCE WE ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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NOW AT THE BEGINNING OF THE HURRICANE SEASON. AS DESCRIBED IN THE HURRICANE ANNEX TO THE POST'S E & E PLAN, THE SAFEHAVEN LOCATION IS SEVENTY-FIVE MILES FROM BELIZE CITY IN THE WESTERN HIGHLANDS OF BELIZE.

3. PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE INDICATES THAT HURRICANES, EVEN THOSE WHICH DO NOT STRIKE BELIZE CITY DIRECTLY, CAUSE HAVOC WITH PUBLIC

UTILITIES AND TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS AND ARE USUALLY ACCCOMPANIED OR FOLLOWED BY SEVERE FLOODING. IN SUCH EVENT, IT MIGHT BE WEEKS OR MONTHS BEFORE NORMAL PUBLIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATIONS COULD BE RE-ESTABLISHED. THE NEED FOR RELIABLE VOICE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE OFFICE BUILDING, OUR VEHICLES, THOSE RESIDENCES STILL OCCUPIED, THE ARMY CAMP, AND EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS AT THE SAFEHAVEN WOULD BE ACUTE IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES.

4. POST'S RESPONSIBILITIES WITH RESPECT TO AMERICAN CITIZENS IN BELIZE BEFORE AND AFTER EITHER CONTINGENCY DISCUSSED ABOVE REQUIRE THAT WE HAVE THE BEST EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE TO MEET THESE EMERGENCY NEEDS.

5. IN THE ABSENCE OF PRECISE INFORMATION RE STATE OF THE ART AND SPECIFIC ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE TO OC, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR THE POST TO MAKE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT EQUIPMENT TO BE PROVIDED. SOME SUGGESTIONS, HOWEVER, FOLLOW:

- A) CONSULATE GENERAL: ONE VHF-FM BASE STATION, 90 WATT (OR HIGHER);
- B) BRITISH ARMY CAMP: SAME AS CONSULATE;
- C) VEHICLES: THREE VHF-FM MOBILE, 90 WATT TRUNK MOUNT UNITS, ONE IN WATERPROOF HOUSING;
- D) SAFEHAVEN: ONE VHF-FM RESIDENCE BASE STATION, 90 WATT (OR HIGHER) CAPABLE OF OPERATING ON 112 VOLTS AC, 60 HTZ, OR 12 VOLTS DC;

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- E) RESIDENCES: FIVE RESIDENCE PORTABLES OF HIGHEST WATTAGE AVAILABLE. CHARGE ON 110 VOLTS AC, 60 HTZ AND, IF POSSIBLE, 12 VOLTS DC;
- F) RESIDENCE ANTENNAS: FIVE ROOF-TOP ANTENNAS. CABLE RUNS:
1) 25', 2) 25', 3) 50', 4) 100', 5) 125';
- G) CONSULATE ANTENNA: AS SUGGESTED REF B, RAISE BASE STATION ANTENNA TO ABOVE LEVEL OF SURROUNDING BUILDINGS.
- H) FIVE GUTTER MOUNT VEHICLE ANTENNAS;
- I) ALL OF THE AFOREMENTIONED RADIOS TO OPERATE ON TWO STANDARD E & E FREQUENCIES. VEHICULAR AND RESIDENTIAL UNITS REQUIRE HIGH WATTAGE, RELATIVE PORTABILITY, AND, IF POSSIBLE, DUAL CURRENT CHARGING AS FIVE AMERICANS AT POST AND LOCAL DRIVER AND GSO ASST. MAY ALL BE DISPERSED IN DIFFERENT AREAS DURING AN EMERGENCY.

6. POST IS AWARE OF PRESENT DEMANDS BEING PLACED UPON A LIMITED NUMBER OF CEO'S; NONTHELESS, REQUEST THAT CEO/R ASSIGNED TO THIS PROJECT BE ALLOWED SUFFICIENT TIME IN BELIZE CITY TO INSTALL, TEST, AND IF NECESSARY ADJUST ALL INSTALLATIONS.

GAWF

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